

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8937

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

USEC BRUSSELS 843

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 3129

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP, EEC, XT

SUBJ: SPANISH CLANDESTINE GROUPS AND THE ETUC

1. SUMMARY: SPANISH SOCIALIST UGT IS ALREADY MEMBER ETUC AND
MODERATE BASQUE NATIONALIST STV WILL BE FORMALLY ADMITTED ETUC THIS
WEEK IN COPENHAGEN, ALONG WITH OTHER EUROPEAN WCL AFFILIATES. THIRD
DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION GROUP, I.E. CHRISTIAN-ORIENTED USO, ALSO HAS
ETUC APPLICATION PENDING, BUT ETUC ACTION THIS APPLICATION REPORTEDLY
UNLIKELY BEFORE FALL. FOURTH AND HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT APPLICATION
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SPANISH CLANDESTINE TRADE UNION GROUPING REPORTEDLY MAY BE SUBMITTED
IN NEAR FUTURE. THIS IS APPLICATION COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS
COMMISSIONS WHICH, ONE SOURCE HAS TOLD LABATT, WILL BE SUBMITTED AS
SOON AS CGIL ENTRY TO ETUC IS SECURED. SOCIALIST UGT WANTS PLACE

CONDITION THAT ETUC ONLY CONSIDER WORKERS COMMISSIONS APPLICATION IF WORKERS COMMISSIONS IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS A SPANISH COMMUNIST TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION, SOMETHING WHICH WORKERS COMMISSIONS NOT ABOUT TO DO. ALSO MILITANTLY ANTI-COMMUNIST STV LIKELY VETO ANY EVENTUAL WORKER

COMMISSIONS APPLICATION. WHOULD WORKERS COMMISSIONS EVENTUALLY BE SUCCESSFUL IN SECURING ENTRY TO ETUC, THIS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO CREATION OF STRONG COMMUNIST-DOMINATED BLOC IN ETUC, ASSUMING ITALIAN CGIL AND FRENCH CGT ARE EVENTUALLY ADMITTED. END SUMMARY.

2. EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC), IN BRUSSELS, HAS AROUSED

CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN SPAIN AMONG SPANISH CLANDESTINE LABOR GROUPS SINCE ITS FOUNDING FEB 1973. THIS HAS BEEN INCREASED BY RECENT AND CURRENT ETUC DEVELOPMENTS, SUCH AS ADMISSION CHRISTIAN WCL AFFILIATES AND LIKELY FORTHCOMING ADMISSION OF ITALIAN COMMUNIST CGIL.

3. ONE SPANISH CLANDESTINE GROUP, SOCIALIST UGT (UNION GENERAL DE TRABAJADORES), WAS FOUNDING MEMBER OF ETUC BY VIRTUE ITS PRIOR LONG-STANDING MEMBERSHIP IN THE ICFTU IN BRUSSELS. UGT HAS ITS HEADQUARTERS

IN EXILE IN TOULOUSE, FRANCE, IIS QUITE ACTIVE IN CERTAIN REGIONS INSIDE SPAIN, HAS BEEN DOMINATED BY GROUP OF "YOUNG TURKS" WHO CAPTURED CONTROL OF CONFEDERATION IN 1972, AND IS ALSO AFFILIATED WITH PSOE SPANISH SOCIALIST POLITICAL PARTY (ALSO NOW DOMINATED BY SAME "YOUNG TURKS") WHICH IN TURN IS MEMBER OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL.

4. SECOND GROUP, STV (SOLIDARIDAD DE TRABAJADORES VASCOS), HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR MEMBERSHIP AND WILL BE FORMALLY ADMITTED AT MAY 23-25 ETUC CONGRESS IN COPENHAGEN. STV, A MODERATE BASQUE NATIONALIST GROUP OF CHRISTIAN INSPIRATION WITH SMALL FOLLOWING IN BASQUE COUNTRY AND ITS HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, IS ONE OF EUROPEAN AFFILIATES OF CHRISTIAN WCL. IT THUS IS BEING ADMITTED AS PART OF GENERAL PACKAGE ENTRY WCL AFFILIATES IN COPENHAGEN.

5. IN ADDITION, THIRD DEMOCRATIC CLANDESTINE AND ILLEGAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION INSIDE SPAIN HAS SUBMITTED APPLICATION FOR ETUC MEMBER-CONFIDENTIAL

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SHIP. THIS IS USO (UNION SINDICAL OBRERA), A GROUPING WITH STRENGTH IN CERTAIN AREAS OF SPAIN WHICH ALSO WAS ORIGINALLY OF CHRISTIAN INSPIRATION, BUT WHOSE ONLY INTERNATIONAL TIES CONSISTS OF MEMBERSHIP IN IMF (INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS FEDERATION) IN GENEVA. ACCORDING USO SOURCES, USO'S APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AT COPENHAGEN AND IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ACTED UPON BY ETUC BEFORE THIS FALL. UNLIKE UGT AND STV, USO'S APPLICATION DOES NOT HAVE SUPPORT OF EITHER ICFTU OR WCL. UGT, HOWEVER, HAS PROMISED USO (WITH WHOM IT COOPERATES CLOSELY INSIDE SPAIN) THAT IT WILL PUSH USO'S APPLICATION FOR ENTLY. (USO AND UGT HAVE, FOR LAST TWO YEARS, BEEN ENGAGED IN DELICATE BUT AS YET UNPRODUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARDS A POSSIBLE MERGER).

6. A MEMBER OF CLANDESTINE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UGT (WHICH

CONFEDERATION SOMETIMES ENGAGES IN "UNITY OF ACTION" AND OTHER FORMS OF COLLABORATION WITH SPANISH COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS) TOLD EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE HE HAS JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT WORKERS COMMISSIONS, THROUGH THEIR FOREIGN COMMITTEE OFFICE IN PARIS HEADED BY VETERAN SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER CARLOS ELVIRA GONZALEZ, PLANS SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR WORKERS COMMISSIONS MEMBERSHIP IN ETUC JUST AS SOON AS ADMISSION OF ITALIAN CGIL TO ETUC IS FINALIZED.

7. SOURCE SAID UGT IS OPPOSED TO ENTRY COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS IN ETUC, AT LEAST UNDER PRESENT WORKERS COMMISSIONS STRUCTURE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT UGT WHICH OFTEN COOPERATES WITH WORKERS COMMISSIONS WHILE SEEKING TO COMBAT THEM AT SAME TIME, WOULD NOT FORMALLY OBJECT OR VOTE AGAINST ETUC ADMISSION FOR COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS. UGT WOULD, HOWEVER, PLACE STRICT CONDITION THAT, IN ORDER FOR WORKERS COMMISSIONS TO BE ADMITTED TO ETUC, PCE WOULD HAVE TO PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WORKERS COMMISSIONS WERE BEING ADMITTED AS A SPANISH COMMUNIST CLANDESTINE LABOR ORGANIZATION. UGT LEADER WAS CERTAIN THAT SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY WOULD NEVER AGREE TO SUCH CONDITION, SINCE PCE WANTS WORKERS COMMISSIONS ADMITTED

NOT WITH COMMUNIST PARTY LABEL, BUT AS "SPANISH WORKER MOVEMENT", THUS SEEKING GIVE IMPRESSION THAT WORKERS COMMISSIONS REPRESENT ALL OF SPAIN'S WORKERS. HE STRESSED THAT WORKERS COMMISSIONS ENTRY INTO ETUC, WHILE IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY VALUABLE TO PCE, WOULD NOT BE WORTH IT TO THEM IF THEY HAD TO OPENLY PLACE SPANISH COMMUNIST CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTY LABEL ON THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS. FURTHER- MORE, SUCH A PCE LABEL WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED BY VARIOUS NON-COMMUNIST GROUPS WHICH PARTICIPATE IN WORKERS COMMISSIONS INSIDE SPAIN, SUCH AS CATHOLIC EXTREMIST ORT AND OTHER LEFTIST AND EXTREMIST GROUPS.

8. SOURCE FURTHER ADDED THAT EVEN IF, AS LIKELY UGT ONLY ABSTAINED ON ANY EVENTUAL VOTE FOR ADMISSION OF WORKERS COMMISSIONS TO ETUC, HE WAS CERTAIN WORKERS COMMISSIONS ENTRY WOULD BE BLOCKED BY NEWLY ADMITTED BASQUE STV. STV IS MADE UP LARGELY OF OLD-STYLE CATHOLIC NATIONALISTS, WHO ARE ALSO ALL FERVENTLY ANTI-COMMUNIST. THEIR ANTI COMMUNISM WOULD THEREFORE PROMPT THEM TO VETO ANY EFFORT BY COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS TO BE ADMITTED TO ETUC.

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